

Robert (Bob) Pépin, Marcel Larocque, Félicien (Fred) Bourbeau, Yves Tessier and Claude Béland.

He was raised in a family that was involved in sports, and his achievements in baseball, la crosse and hockey during the years 1935-55, were known, both locally and throughout the province.

He always had time for others. His dedication to sports and his community involvement were legendary. He later became a referee, president of the OTJ, coach, co-founder of the Hériot Golf Club, director, manager, advertising manager and finally governor of the Junior Drummondville Rangers, and players like Marcel Dionne, Yvon Lambert and many others have him to thank for their careers.

Maurice Fillion, who worked for him, starting as an instructor, was there to pay tribute to Mr. Couture.

Married to Marcelle Mercure, he was an officer in the Canadian Army and served his country as so many thousands did in 1941. Subsequently, he became officer in command of the Military College and was a member of the Canadian Legion.

Mr. and Mrs. Couture certainly deserve all the congratulations they are receiving, and we want to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they have done.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CLOSURE OF MILITARY BASES

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Mulroney Government's crushing decision to close or cut back 14 military bases across Canada to save \$585 million has caused enormous distress in Canada's regional economies, some of which are dependent on the activities which will now be transferred to other bases. In my Toronto riding, Canada's largest military base may well increase as a result.

It seems that no thought was given by the Government to alternatives which would have spared the regions this devastating cut. I propose to the Government that instead of its present plan, it close the base at Downsview. Essential strategic operations could be continued on less than 5 per cent of the land presently used, and other activities could easily be moved to Camp Borden, 45 miles away.

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The Government could earn as much as \$750 million from the sale of the over 650 acres of land which are badly needed for residential development. Under the Province of Ontario guidelines there would be 25 per cent affordable housing. The urbanization of the base would create thousands of homes, parks and amenities and an economic boom for Toronto, rather than the disaster the Government's present plan delivers to places like Summerside.

To take that example, the closure of CFB Summerside represents a 4.5 per cent total job loss for the Province of Prince Edward Island and the devastation of the economy of that part of the Island.

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HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, May 1 to May 7 is Mental Health Week in Canada and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the men and women of the Canadian Mental Health Association for their efforts to increase public awareness on the issues of mental illness and mental health.

Established in 1918, this association is one of the oldest voluntary organizations in the country. Today the Canadian Mental Health Association has grown to include over 30,000 volunteers with 250 permanent staff in its 190 local branches, 12 provincial and territorial divisions and the national office.

Most recently, the CMHA has been collaborating with the federal Department of Health and Welfare to develop and promote a strategy to bring a message on mental health to the Canadian people.

I know all Members of this House will join me in congratulating both the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Minister of Health and Welfare for their continuing commitment to the betterment of all Canadians.

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HOUSING

CUTS IN SOCIAL HOUSING

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Commons should be made aware of the crisis that now surrounds affordable social housing in Canada as the result of the federal Budget.

Last week saw the outright termination of the rental RRAP program for upgrading housing for low-income